DEAS Network Plus Finance Theme Projects 2020
FAQs

Application process questions

What is the deadline for applications?
30ᵗʰ October, 17.00

How are applications submitted?
Applications should be emailed to Frances Lumbers: F.Lumbers@exeter.ac.uk

Where is the application form?
The application form can be found on the DEAS website (https://www.deas.ac.uk/post/call-for-proposals-deas-network-plus-finance-sector-projects)

Must my university approve my application?
Yes, all proposals must be signed off by your university before we will accept them for submission. Your own University processes will determine who at your university should sign off on the application.

How long the projects would run for?
Projects should last up to 6 months and be completed by 7ᵗʰ July 2021.

Who can apply?
All those who are eligible for EPSRC funding can apply. Please see: https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/eligibility/organisations/ for further details.

Can I apply if I have applied to the DEAS Network before?
Yes.

Questions relating to assessment

How will the proposals be scored?
Marks will be allocated to proposals based on the degree to which they meet each of the criteria. Marks will be amalgamated to form a prioritised list with the highest ranked projects funded subject to available funds and quality criteria having been met.

Will there be an interview as part of the application process?
There will be no interview. Members of the DEAS review panel will also conduct reviews dependent on their expertise. Marks will be allocated to proposals based on the degree to which they meet each of the criteria. Marks will be amalgamated to form a prioritised list with the highest ranked projects funded subject to available funds and quality criteria having been met. Each application will receive 2-3 reviews.

Questions relating to finances

What can I use the funds for?
The funding call follows EPSRC guidelines. So, funding can be used for e.g., staff time, and travel and subsistence (where appropriate). If the award was to fund new staff salaries it would be advisable prior to submitting your application, to consult with your university's HR team to understand the process of recruitment and expected timescale. Only the salaries of UK based academics can be considered.

We will not fund new sensors. If any data is being used from IoT devices, it is expected those IoT devices are already in place.

Does my university need to approve the financial request for funding as part of the application?
Yes. All costings should be confirmed with your university finance team. Applications must also be signed off by your organisation. We would especially like applicants to discuss with their research finance office that those successful applicants will be awarded 80% FEC.

Is there anything that must be included within our budget?
Yes. It is expected that the grant holders will participate, at least remotely, in the Spring Servitization Conference 2021. Final fees have yet to be confirmed, however as a DEAS grant holder you will be eligible for a discounted rate in line with the amount of DEAS funding your project has received. Further details will be made available once the conference fees have been agreed. We ask that you reserve 3% of your final budget for registration fees. Please contact the DEAS project officer (Frances Lumbers) team if you have any questions on this or your finance team needs further clarifications.

Questions relating to scope

What are DEAS?
DEAS use innovative digital technologies to innovate business models and the value proposition. Rather than focus on the product or service that is delivered Digitally Enhanced Advanced Services (DEAS) focus on how the product or service is used. This is a major change in how firms earn money and is being enabled by transformative digital technologies that allows for example, payment per use or availability or outcome. The impact of these changes is in firm productivity. The traditional focus of productivity (outputs/inputs) is on internal efficiency. However, digital technologies can also transform the value of the output (payment for use, availability or outcome).

I am unsure if my project relates to DEAS. How can I find out?
If you are unsure if your project is in scope please email Frances Lumbers:
F.Lumbers@exeter.ac.uk

Questions relating to supporting companies

Is it compulsory to join/collaborate with an industry partner or government organisation on the project?
It could be advantageous but it is not a requirement of the call.

Other questions

Does the project need to be multi-disciplinary?
The call does not require proposals to be multidisciplinary but proposals could be if your project needs it.

Will there be future funding?
There are no current plans for future funding from the network, but we would work with successful applicants to help identify future funding sources.

What do you mean by impact?
Research that is impactful should demonstrate the contribution that it makes to society and the economy. We would advise that you look at EPSRC website for examples and their impact framework.

What about current restrictions due to COVID-19?
In light of the current social distancing guidelines, all proposals submitted must be able to conduct and complete their research while adhering to government guidance.

Where can we find a list of previously funded projects?
We have previously funded 20 feasibility awards which can be viewed at: https://www.deas.ac.uk/news-events

Could you please share the email address, whom I could contact if I have any queries?
Please direct any queries to Frances Lumbers: F.Lumbers@exeter.ac.uk